

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT
OMB No. 0690-0008 Expiration Date: November 1996

1. CONTRACT ID CODE	
2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO. 0001	3.EFFECTIVE DATE January 24, 1997
4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO. 7/106-1007	5.PROJECT NO. (If applicable)
6. ISSUED BY CODE Nat'l Institute Standards-Technology Acquisition & Assistance Division Bldg 301 - Room B-117 Gaithersburg, MD 20899-0001	7. ADMINISTERED BY Code (If other than Item 6) See Block 6. C\$CONSTANT-ADMIN-ADD-2 Not Applicable C\$CONSTANT-ADMIN-ADD-4
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR (No. Street, County, State and ZIP Code) To All Offerors/Bidders Code: FACILITY CODE:	[X]9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO. 52SBNB7C1045 9B. DATED (See Item 11) 01/24/97 []10A. MOD. OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO. 10B. DATED (See Item 13)
11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS	
<p>[X] The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers [] is extended, [X] is not extended. Offerors must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended by one of the following methods: (a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning 1 copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.</p>	
12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA (If required)	
EXCEPTION TO STANDARD FORM 30 APPROVED BY GSA/IRMS 9-87	STANDARD FORM 30 (REV 10-83) FAR (48 CFR) 53.243

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13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS. IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.

[] A.THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: (Specify authority) THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.

[] B.THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (such as changes in paying office, appropriation data,etc.) SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).

[] C.THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:

[] D.OTHER (Specify type of modification and authority)

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor [] is not, [] is required to sign this document and return _____ copies to the issuing office.

14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible).

See Continuation Sheet(s)

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER (Type or print)	16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print) Sandra L. Febach Contracting Officer
15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR (Signature of person authorized to sign)	16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Signature of Contracting Officer)
15C. DATE SIGNED	16C. DATE SIGNED

EXCEPTION TO STANDARD FORM 30

A. The purpose of amendment 0001 is to delete provision L.8 and to insert the following provision L.8R:

L.8R DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AGENCY-LEVEL PROTEST
PROCEDURES LEVEL ABOVE THE CONTRACTING
OFFICER (DEC 1996)

I. PURPOSE: To implement the requirements of Executive Order No. 12979 and Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR 33.103).

On October 25, 1995, President Clinton signed Executive Order No. 12979 which directs heads of executive agencies to develop administrative procedures for resolving protests to awards of procurement contracts within their agencies at a level above the contracting officer. Authority to administer procurement-related directives has been delegated within the Department of Commerce through the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Director for Acquisition Management (Procurement Executive).

The Department's goal is to encourage protesters to resolve their protests at the agency level, help build confidence in the Government's acquisition system, and reduce protests to the General Accounting Office and other external fora. Prior to submission of an agency protest, all parties shall use their best efforts to resolve concerns raised by an interested party at the contracting officer level through open and frank discussions. If concerns cannot be resolved, protesters may use these procedures when a resolution is requested from the agency at a level above the contracting officer.

II. DEFINITIONS:

An agency protest is one that may be filed with either the contracting officer or the protest decision authority but not both. When a protester decides to file a protest at the agency level with the protest decision authority, the guidelines set forth in these established agency level protest procedures above the contracting officer apply. These procedures are in addition to the existing protest procedures contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 33.102. A day is a calendar day. In computing a period of time for the purpose of these procedures, the day from which the period begins to run is not counted. When the last day of the period is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the period extends to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. Similarly, when the Washington, DC offices of the Department of Commerce are closed for all or part of the last day, the period extends to the next day on which the Department is open.

III. PROCEDURES:

- a. Protesters using these procedures may protest to the protest decision authority who will make the final decision for the Department. Protests shall be addressed to:

Mr. Jorge R. Urrutia
Director of Administration
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Building 101, Room A1105
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899
FAX No. 301-926-7203

The outside of the envelope or beginning of the FAX transmission must be marked "Agency-level Protest". The protester shall also provide a copy of the protest within 1 day to the responsible contracting officer and a copy to the addressee indicated below:

Contract Law Division
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Finance and
Litigation
Department of Commerce, Room H5882
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230
(FAX Number 202-482-5858)

- b. Election of forum: While a protest is pending at the agency level with the protest decision authority, the protester agrees not to protest to the General Accounting Office (GAO) or any other external fora. If the protester has already filed with the GAO or other external fora, the procedures described here may not be used.
 1. Protests based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation which are apparent prior to bid opening or time set for receipt of proposals shall be filed prior to bid opening or the time set for receipt of proposals. If the contract has been awarded, protests must be filed within 10 days after contract award or 5 days after the date the protester was given the opportunity to be debriefed, whichever date is later. In cases other than those covered in the preceding two sentences, protests shall be filed not later than 10 days after the basis of the protest is known or should have been known, whichever is earlier.
 2. To be filed on a given day, protests must be received by 4:30 PM current local time. Any protests received after that time will be considered to be filed on the next day. Incomplete submissions will not be considered filed until all information is provided.
 3. To be complete, protests must contain the following information:

- (i) the protester's name, address, telephone number, and fax number
- (ii) the solicitation or contract number, name of contracting office and the contracting officer
- (iii) a detailed statement of all factual and legal grounds for protests, and an explanation of how the protester was prejudiced
- (iv) copies of relevant documents supporting protester's statement
- (v) a request for ruling by the agency
- (vi) statement as to form of relief requested
- (vii) all information establishing that the protester is an interested party for the purpose of filing a protest
- (viii) all information establishing the timeliness of the protest.

All protests must be signed by an authorized representative of the protester.

Within 14 days after the protest is filed, the contracting officer will prepare an administrative report that responds to the issues raised by the protester and addresses any other issues, which, even if not raised by the protester, have been identified by agency officials as being relevant to the fairness of the procurement process. For good cause shown, the protest decision authority may grant an extension of time for filing the administrative report and for issuing the written decision. When an extension is granted, the protest decision authority will notify the protester and all interested parties within 1 day of the decision to grant the extension.

Unless an extension is granted, the protest decision authority will issue a decision within 35 days of the protest. The protest decision authority's final decision will be binding on the Department of Commerce and not subject to further appeals.

The protest decision authority shall send a written ruling and a summary of the reasons supporting the ruling to the protester by certified mail, return receipt requested with information copies to the applicable contracting office and Office of Acquisition Management.

Effect of protest on award and performance:

When a protest is filed prior to award, a contract may not be awarded unless authorized by the Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA) based on a written finding that:

- (i) the supplies or services are urgently required,
- (ii) delivery or performance would be unduly delayed by failure to make the award promptly, or
- (iii) a prompt award will be in the best interest of the Government.

When a protest is filed within 10 days after contract award or 5 days after a debriefing date was offered to the protester under a timely debriefing request in accordance with FAR 15.1004, whichever is later, the contracting officer shall immediately suspend performance pending the resolution of the protest within the agency, including any review by an independent higher official, unless continued performance is justified. The HCA may authorize contract performance, notwithstanding the protest, based on a written finding that:

- (i) contract performance would be in the best interest of the United States, or
- (ii) urgent and compelling circumstances that significantly affect the interests of the United States will not permit waiting for a decision.

IV. REMEDIES:

The protest decision authority may grant one or more of the following remedies:

- (1) terminate the contract,
- (2) re-compete the requirement,
- (3) issue a new solicitation,
- (4) refrain from exercising options under the contract,
- (5) award a contract consistent with statutes and regulations,
- (6) amend the solicitation provisions which gave rise to the protest and continue with the procurement,

(7) such other remedies as the decision-maker may determine are necessary to correct a defect. Designated Protest Decision Authority for Operating Unit as follows: